GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:89
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
VANDE MATRAM SCHEME
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has abandoned the "Vande Matram" scheme launched last year for pre-natal care of pregnant women;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) if not, the details of works done under the scheme so far alongwith the expenditure incurred; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide free check up facilities to pregnant women on regular basis?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 89 FOR 9TH MARCH, 2005
(a)&(b): No, Sir.

(c) The Vande Mataram Scheme is a voluntary scheme initiated in February, 2004, under the auspices of the Federation of Obstetricians and Gynecological Society of India (FOGSI). FOGSI have appealed to its members to provide for free OPD services for ante-natal and post natal check up for pregnant women and family planning services on the 9th of every month free of cost and to refer such women who require treatment for any complications, if necessary, to pre-identified referral centers. Instructions have been issued to all State Governments to facilitate voluntary doctors by providing them with free Vande Mataram Boards for their clinics, create awareness in the community about the scheme and about the voluntary doctors and also to provide Iron Folic Acid Tablet, Injection Tetanus Toxide, condoms and oral pills etc. for free distribution to the patients who attend the clinics of these doctors on the 9th of every month. These items are to be provided by the District Administrations from out of the funds and drugs available with them under the Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Programme. No separate funds have, therefore, been earmarked for this scheme. As per information made available by FOGSI, 1653 volunteer doctors are providing services under the scheme.

(d) Under the on-going RCH Programme, various interventions focused on providing safe motherhood services to pregnant women are being implemented. These include Essential Obstetric Care; Emergency Obstetric Care; provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, staff nurses, doctors and anesthetist. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected primary health centres and community health centres.